

To the select committee on Veterans affairs: My name is SFC. Carmelo Figueroa, and I am here today to speak on behalf of mainly 3 issue's. However for the record I do support any and all matters pertaining to the Continued growth and betterment of the quality of life for all veterans. I am A 30 yr Army Veteran (3 combat tours Desert Storm-Iraq and Afghanistan) I sit on the Board of the Directors for the CT. Veterans Military Coalition as well as the Board for the Hispanic American Veterans and the OEF-OIF Task force team. So as you can see I take these matters very seriously. When I am not in any of the above capacities I work my normal job as a Judicial Marshal,(at G.A.-14 Hartford), in recent years mostly in Criminal Court- Which exposed and allowed me to see 1st hand the different elements and caliber of citizens that Have been presented before our Judicial system. One being our troops both pass and present- as of late, mostly from these recent conflicts-oef/oif and any other part of the world.

I can remember a young service member(prefer not to mention the component) that I personally new and was very shocked and surprised to see him facing the judge for some serious criminal charges. This kid fought in the battle of fallugah back in 2004-he had no one to fight for him in front of that judge because there were no programs in place for him-not to mention he was taken advantage of by a private attorney. This is one example of why We need programs like the pre-trial diversionary program, so please support it.

1st SB NO. 114(Raised) An act concerning pre-trial diversionary program.
SB 198- desecration of war memorials
HB 5298- a list of preferred veterans charitable organizations